

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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WORK CAMPS AID FLOOD VICTIMS

The Youth Commission of the National Christian Council and Church World Service are co-operating in a venture of service to aid the destitute people who suffered from Typhoon Ida--#22 on the Izu Peninsula. At three places on the peninsula where extensive damage was done, groups of Christians from the Tokyo area are conducting two weeks of work camps for the purpose of demonstrating Christian concern. They operate milk stations, feed stations, conduct nurseries and do the heavy labor of clearing out debris which is four feet deep in some places.

Seventy young people are at work in these three areas: Ito, Nagaoka, and Kashiwakubo. The first team was there from October 7-13 and the second team from October 14 to October 20. Mr. Ogawa of Church World Service is directing the relief effort on the scene with the Y.M.C.A. leaders, Messrs. Wedel and Sakai at Ito. At Nagaoka Mr. Nishido and Mr. Dell Davis of the United Church of Christ Youth department were at work for the first week. The Rev. Fukushima and Rev. Ivan Dornon were in charge of the Japanese young people at Kashiwakubo. The second week's activities will be led by Rev. Kishimoto, Rev. Carrick of Hamamatsu, Mr. Fujimoto and Rev. Richard Merritt.

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The Christian youth are paying their own expenses as far as Mishima on government railroad and from there aid will be given them by Church and Service and the N.C.C. Youth Department for transportation and living. Most are sleeping on cots or mats in the local churches except Igaoka where a hotel matron has donated her second floor for their use. The Christian young people from Tokyo churches wear arm bands designating them as a "Christian Service Group." They work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with no remuneration. The first team which returned to Tokyo on October 13 reported that the people of the area were extremely grateful for their services and some found it difficult to understand why they did work for others receiving no pay. Some indicated a new understanding of what Christianity is. The youth came back to their homes feeling extremely tired but very happy."

They reported that in one village, Kumasaka, 300 of the population of 400 were killed. The heavy rains brought the side of the mountain down in an avalanche that completely demolished 80 homes. In a class alone of the grammar schools 30 out of 50 classmates were killed. At Igaoka and Kashiwakubo some of the choicest farm lands were inundated and the aftermath presented the huge task of removing the 3-4 feet of mud. As the mud dries in the hot Fall sunshine the danger of sandstorm mounts. The people already suffer from dysentery as the waters are polluted.

Baptists have engaged the aid of a military helicopter and are conducting relief activities from their camp site of Amagi-Sanso. Twelve primary students from the Tokyo Lutheran Seminary left on the 14th to go to aid to a community in which is a Lutheran church. One German woman and four Japanese deaconesses also participated in the relief work at Kashiwakubo.

CENTENNIAL WEEK PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council at AVACO on October 14, the program for the week of festivities for the centennial celebration of the beginning of missionary work in Japan was announced. The Centennial Week is from November 1-7, 1959. However, the Episcopal Church will mark the anniversary in April at their general assembly in Tokyo at which time the Archbishop of Canterbury will be in attendance.

A general outline of the program is as follows:

- 1, Sunday--All churches will unite in a memorial service and will mark the beginning of the New Century. In the afternoon there will be a Church School Rally at Hibiya Park.
- 3--Tuesday--National Holiday. In the morning there will be a joint ship service at the Sendagaya Stadium. In the afternoon a memorial service and in the evening a lecture meeting. This will be a complete day of festivities with representatives from all over Japan participating.
- 4, Wednesday--Youth Assembly in the evening at Sendagaya Stadium. During the day there will be a conference of the United Church of Christ to mark the occasion.

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5, Thursday--In the morning there will be a Southern Baptist assembly in Tokyo, and in the afternoon the overseas Japanese Christians returned missionaries will be honored at a reception. In the evening of the 5th, there is to be a program at Aoyama Gakuin emphasizing the object of overseas evangelism from Japan to other nations as a future project.

6, Friday--In the afternoon an assembly for women will be held. In the evening there will be an evangelical mass meeting at Kyoritsu Hall.

7, Saturday--A Memorial Musical Concert will be conducted at Hibiya Hall in the afternoon and evening.

Sometime during this week Christian schools will sponsor separate parties for middle school, high school and university students. Christian councils throughout Japan will plan the local celebrations.

Attention is called to the fact that emphasis is being laid on the Centenary of the Christian Church is entering and not alone on memorial services for the first one hundred years.

HERAN MISSIONARY HONORED

Dr. J.M.T. Winther of Denmark, the United States and Japan, celebrated his 84th birthday, the 60th anniversary of his coming to Japan and was honored by Japanese and Danish governments this year. He received the 1st Class order of the Rising Sun at ceremonies in Osaka on September 10, Ambassador Kenkichi Yoshida acting on behalf of the Japanese Emperor. This is the highest class which is ever presented to a foreigner in Japan.

Dr. Winther was cited for making a great cultural contribution between Denmark and Japan, for devoting his whole life toward advancement of Christianity in Japan and for interpreting the culture and life of Japan to the Danish people through numerous articles and also by personally introducing a famous Danish clergyman through Japan and introducing him to a well-rounded view of the Japanese people--the Danish clergyman later wrote an outstanding book about this country.

In August word was received here that Dr. Winther had been honored by the King of Denmark for years of service by being made a member of the Order of Dane Borg.

On September 7th he celebrated the 60th anniversary of his arrival in Japan. He served the Lutheran church in Japan as an evangelistic missionary in Kurume and Fukuoka in Kyushu. Also he was instrumental in the establishment of the Lutheran Seminary and Kyushu Gakuin, Lutheran school for boys in Kumamoto. After his retirement by the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America and the United Evangelical Church (Danish), and also after the death of Mrs. Winther, he returned to Japan and has been teaching at the Lutheran Bible School in Kobe since 1900. His daughter, Miss Maya Winther, who is a missionary in Saga Prefecture, is on furlough in the States at the present time.

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GOVERNMENT MORAL EDUCATION PROGRAM EXAMINED

Following the decision made last year by the Education Association of Christian Schools in Japan, a Moral Education Study Commission was organized and a study was made of Christian School Education and Moral Education. This was to meet the action of the Ministry of Education in planning to enforce moral education by setting aside time for moral education in the primary and the junior high schools as approved by the Educational Curriculum Committee, and to deal with the announced Curriculum and Course of Study for Moral Education.

There is the bitter previous experience of having had moral education substituted by an extreme nationalistic education. Christian schools suffered because of the conflict between Christian moral education and the nationalistic moral education. With the Ministry of Education undertaking moral education, there is danger of a revival of the previous nationalistic education and the subsequent oppression of Christian education and democratic education. The consensus of opinion among the Christian schools is that they must speak out against any such inclination which should appear. However, the Moral Education Study Commission, as a result of careful study of the contents of the moral education program announced by the Ministry of Education, feels there is no need for such action at this time. This is because even though the newly promulgated moral education regulations may pose some minor problems, it is not, as a whole, subversive to democracy; also, religious education may be substituted for moral education in private schools. It is not necessary for Christian schools to provide for a special course in moral education.

This does not mean that the present Christian school education is entirely satisfactory, rather it demands great effort towards the integration of Christian education with the entire school program. As a part of this effort, the Education Association of Christian Schools, through various committees, is planning to publish a textbook based on the already revised Bible curriculum, a teacher's guide for this textbook, a teacher's handbook for home-room activities, a teacher's guide for primary school education and is at the present also making a detailed survey of religious education in general.

It is firmly believed that by such activities and study Christian education will flourish and achieve greater results so as to meet the demand of nationally imposed moral education. The necessity does remain, of course, for a careful observation of the direction in which moral education as demanded by the government moves, that there may be no repetition of the previous mistake of ultra-nationalism in the Japanese national world.

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INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY NEWS

Fall Term Begins with More Students and New Faculty

International Christian University, as chartered under the Japanese laws, observes the same academic year as universally observed in Japan. Usually, the year starts in April and ends in March. But ICU happens to be an exception in that its school year is divided into three terms, Spring (Early April to early July), Fall (early September to early December) and Winter (early December to early March). This incidentally is geared to the convenience of faculty and students who come here to start work in September. (All other universities are on two-semester-a-year system.)

Last summer, there was a sizable turnover of faculty, in fact nine faculty members returned to USA after completion of one to three year terms of service, and one faculty member is on furlough. In their places, five new faculty members and seventeen part-time faculty members were added. One is to arrive in mid-November from Norway. At the beginning of the Fall Term 1958 there was a total of 160 faculty members, including Emil Brunner as professor emeritus. Countries they represent and the number of faculty from each country are: Japan 130, USA 23, Canada 2, France 2, Switzerland 2 and Norway 1.

The student body is comprised of 702 undergraduates and 30 graduates. By nationality they are: 621 Japanese, 46 American, 22 Chinese, 5 Korean, 1 German, 2 Philippino, 1 Swiss and 2 stateless. That is, 81 are non-Japanese.

Cornerstone Laying for Ruth Isabel Seabury Memorial Chapel

With a gift of \$50,000 from the Danforth Foundation, and in the presence of Dr. Kenneth Brown, the Executive Director of the Foundation, a ceremony of cornerstone laying for the Ruth Isabel Seabury Memorial Chapel will take place on the ICU campus on Sunday, October 19th. Participating in the program will be Dr. T.T. Brumbaugh, Chairman of the Strategy Committee for the University Foundation; Dr. Darley Downs, representative of the Japan Christian Missionaries and the American Board; Dr. Kenneth Brown, Danforth Foundation; Dr. Yuasa, President of the University; Dr. Kiyoshi Togasaki, Chairman of the Board and also of the Japan Times; and the Rev. Dr. Michio Kozaki, President of the National Christian Council of Japan. Also attending will be Miss Alice Cary and Miss Margaret Billingsley, University officers and trustees.

Miss Seabury dedicated her life in the service of the youth of the world. It was on her way back from her visit to ICU that she passed away in Honolulu. She has a special place in the thoughts of Dr. Hachiro Yuasa to whom she worked when he was president of Doshisha University.

The chapel designed by the office of Vories Architects will be triangular in appearance with cubicles and a triangular court in the center. It will be used for meditation, prayer and for services in small groups.

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AVACO DRAMA SCHOOL SEES THIRD YEAR

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Christian Audio Visual Center there is held, under the sponsorship of AVACO, a college level (but not accredited) drama school.

Thirty young people are now receiving courses in radio and dramatic production along with lectures on Christianity. Their tuition supports the school, providing the honoraria for professional lecturers who are experienced producers of drama and radio.

In the previous two years of this school some thirty have graduated from the one year course. Of these ten have moved into part or full time jobs in the field of commercial or government radio. Two are staff announcers at NHK, the government network, and the Bunka Hoso, Tokyo's largest commercial station, respectively.

The other graduates have formed a drama group, which through its work for AVACO and such Christian programs as the LUTHERAN HOUR, has made itself self-supporting. For AVACO the group has done lip synchronized sound tracks for such films as JOHN WESLEY and THE SUPREME SECRET, and regularly produces sound tapes to accompany filmstrips.

Each year a number of the students have been baptized as a result of their participation in this school.

